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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 245210

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HATO, GW, US, UK, FR, WB

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 1975 QUADRIPARTITE DINNER: BERLIN AND
GERMANY ASPECTS

REF: A. BONN 16661 D. BONN 7814 G. STATE 58094

B. BONN 7745 E. BONN 8034

C. BONN 7807 F. BONN 8037

1. DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO PLACE HIGH IMPORTANCE ON MAKING
SEMI-ANNUAL MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS ON BERLIN AS USEFUL
AS POSSIBLE TO THE MINISTERS AND THE FOUR GOVERNMENTS
INVOLVED. WE BELIEVE THAT ANNOTATED AGENDA PREPARED BY
BONN GROUP FOR SPRING 1975 QUAD DINNER WAS A STEP IN THE
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RIGHT DIRECTION. THIS MESSAGE PROVIDES DEPARTMENT'S THINK-

ING ON FURTHER STEPS WE BELIEVE WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. EXPERIENCE WITH RECENT QUAD DINNERS HAS STRENGTHENED OUR BELIEF THAT IF SUCH HIGH-LEVEL DISCUSSION ARE TO BE AS USEFUL IN THE FUTURE AS THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST, CONSIDERABLY MORE PLANNING AND CONSULTATION MUST GO INTO PREPARATION OF THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA. TOPICS NOW BEING PRESENTED TO THE MINISTERS ARE NO LONGER THE CLEAR-CUT ISSUES OF

NEGOTIATION WHICH CHARACTERIZED THE SITUATION IN RECENT YEARS. IN ADDITION, AS EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW MONTHS HAVE DEMONSTRATED, COMPETITION FOR MINISTERS' ATTENTION FROM OTHER MORE PRESSING ISSUES, SOME OF WHICH ALSO DESERVE DISCUSSION IN THE FOUR POWER FORUM, MEANS THAT EVEN LESS TIME IS AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF DETAILED PROBLEMS CONCERNING BERLIN.

3. IN OUR VIEW, SUCH DEVELOPMENTS CAN BEST BE HANDLED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

A. ASSESSMENT OF OVERALL SITUATION: DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO FEEL STRONGLY THAT QUAD DINNER DISCUSSIONS MUST BE FIT INTO A BROADER FRAMEWORK OF THE GENERAL SITUATION AFFECTING BERLIN. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PROPOSAL FOR A SHORT BONN GROUP ASSESSMENT OF THE SITUATION DURING THE SIX MONTHS PRECEDING THE QUAD DINNER (REF G) IS THE BEST WAY TO PROVIDE THIS BACKGROUND. IN OUR VIEW, ARGUMENTS CONTAINED IN REF G IN SUPPORT OF THIS PROPOSAL REMAIN VALID.

B. ANNOTATED AGENDA: DEPARTMENT WELCOMES BONN GROUP INITIATIVE WHICH RESULTED IN ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR SPRING 1975 MEETING. WE BELIEVE THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD BE CONTINUED AND REFINED.

C. SENIOR LEVEL MEETING: COMPLEXITY OF ISSUES INVOLVED, PLUS INCREASING DEMANDS ON MINISTERS' SCHEDULE SUGGESTS THAT SENIOR LEVEL MEETING SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE REGULAR FEATURE OF WESTERN CONSULTATIONS ON BERLIN. MEETING SHOULD SERVE DUAL PURPOSE OF GIVING FINAL LOOK AT CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTERIAL AGENDA AND OF DISCUSSING SUBJECTS ON WHICH IT IS FELT HIGHER LEVEL, BUT NOT NECESSARILY MINISTERIAL ATTENTION IS REQUIRED.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD RAISE QUESTION OF QUAD DINNER PREPARATIONS IN BONN GROUP AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY AND PRESENT DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS IN PARAS TWO AND THREE ABOVE. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WHERE

GENERAL ASSESSMENT IS CONCERNED, WE ARE NOT PROPOSING A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IN BERLIN, BUT RATHER A SHORT PAPER OF NO MORE THAN THREE PAGES WHICH HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS AND GIVES VERY BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF OVERALL POLITICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION THERE. WHAT WE HAVE IN MIND IS A CONCISE, CHECKLIST-LIKE DOCUMENT FROM WHICH THE MINISTERS COULD OBTAIN QUICKLY AN OVERALL VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN BERLIN AND OF THE CITY'S RELATIONSHIP TO BROADER EAST-WEST ISSUES DURING THE PRECEDING SIX MONTHS.

5. WE WOULD FORESEE THE ANALYSIS FORMING, TOGETHER WITH THE ANNOTATED AGENDA, A COMPACT PACKAGE DESIGNED FOR USE BY MINISTERS THEMSELVES. THE AGENDA ITSELF SHOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF THE PAPER CONTAINED IN REF E. WHILE WE WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO LONGER BACKGROUND PAPERS SUCH AS THAT TRANSMITTED IN REF D, WE WOULD PREFER THAT BONN GROUP ATTENTION BE FOCUSED ON THE SHORTER DOCUMENTS FOR MINISTERS. ONE OF THE MAIN TASKS OF THE SENIOR LEVEL MEETING SHOULD BE TO REVIEW THE BONN GROUP ANALYSIS AND AGENDA AND TO PREPARE A FINAL PACKAGE FOR USE BY MINISTERS.

6. CONCERNING UK INQUIRY IN REF A, DEPARTMENT IS NOT YET ABLE TO GIVE FINAL VIEW ON TIMING OF DECEMBER QUAD DINNER OR SENIOR LEVEL MEETING. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE PREPARATIONS SHOULD BEGIN ON PRIORITY BASIS EVEN THOUGH PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN WORKED OUT. KISSINGER

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